

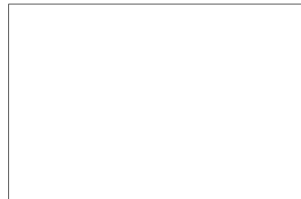
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday 28 November 1977

CG NIDC 77/275C

State Dept. review completed

DIA review(s) completed.



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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, 28 November 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR-PRC: Static Relations

25X1 [] *The Soviets appear to see little political significance in the fact that the Chinese upgraded their treatment of the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution this year. Soviet officials seem to believe that Peking is more interested in creating a public image of reasonableness than in making a genuine effort to improve relations; Moscow, they say, is still waiting for "concrete steps" by the Chinese.*

25X1 [] The Soviet media responded negatively to the Chinese editorial commemorating the Bolshevik Revolution by labeling the editorial "shameless slander." In discussions with a US official last week, a Soviet expert on China called the editorial "dirty" and cited it as confirmation of the hypocritical nature of the official congratulatory message from the Chinese Government. For the first time in the past several years, the Soviets chose not to print the official Chinese message in the Soviet press.

25X1 [] A Soviet Embassy official in Tokyo also said that, while there was marginal room for improvement in state-to-state relations, recent Chinese gestures on the diplomatic front did not signal any major improvement in Sino-Soviet relations. This type of commentary will undoubtedly continue as each side continues to assess the others intentions. []

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ISRAEL: Submarine Delivered

25X1 [] *//The last of three submarines to be built in the UK for the Israelis left for Israel last Tuesday, according to a US naval attache in London. The submarine is scheduled to arrive in Haifa about 18 December.//*

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[] //The British began construction of three 540-ton submarines of West German design for the Israeli Navy in 1972, but the program was plagued by construction and labor problems.// The first of the submarines arrived in Israel late last year, and the second followed in July.

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[] The submarines will be used mainly for coastal defense and operations against Arab navies in any future war. The Israelis also probably will use them on special reconnaissance missions and in longer range operations to protect sealanes. Initially, all three submarines will be stationed in the Mediterranean, but the Israelis may eventually transfer one or more to the Red Sea.

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[] Operations with the new submarines got off to an inauspicious start. The first boat was severely damaged shortly after it arrived in Israel when it struck a reef while on a training cruise. It was out of service for eight months. []

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ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA: Situation

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[] *Ethiopian forces and Somali insurgents continued to battle over the weekend for control of Harar, one of Ethiopia's two remaining strongholds in the Ogaden. The insurgents say they are on three sides of the city and have cut off Ethiopian forces emplaced several kilometers to the east [] US Embassies in Addis Ababa and Djibouti report that several foreign advisers and technicians were evacuated from Harar last week.*

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[] Several hundred Somalis apparently penetrated the city's defenses last week but were driven out by Friday. The insurgents reportedly have occupied nearby hilltop positions, however, and are continuing the attack. Fighting appears to be heavy, and [] high casualties on both sides.

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[] The insurgents asserted yesterday that their attacks had cut off several thousand Ethiopians defending positions some 20 to 35 kilometers east of Harar, along the road to Jijiga. These easternmost garrisons have staved off repeated attacks by Somali regulars over the past two weeks but could collapse if they are isolated from their supply base.

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[redacted] the Ethiopians evacuated several foreign advisers, including Cuban, Soviet, and East European medical personnel, from Harar last week to prevent their possible capture. Most appear to have been moved to nearby Dire Dawa.

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[redacted] The Ethiopians are trying to support the defense of Harar with air strikes mounted from Dire Dawa, the main base for Ethiopian military operations and the other remaining Somali objective in the region. [redacted]

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[redacted] Unconfirmed press reports indicate that the Ethiopians have also begun ground operations from Dire Dawa to prevent a Somali buildup in the flatlands to the north and to relieve insurgent pressure between Dire Dawa and Harar. [redacted]

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